



MONTANA WETLAND NEWS

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News Bits about Montana's Wetlands – To submit your news item, please e-mail lsaul@mt.gov

Montana Wetland Council Meeting Oct 22 in Helena. Topics include identifying wetland habitat for Trumpeter Swan reintroduction, riparian buffer recommendations and local government case studies, climate change and wetlands, and more. Agenda will be sent soon.

North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) Announces Funding in Montana

Rocky Mountain Front II. Congratulations to principle authors, Randy Gazda, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Lisa Bay, The Nature Conservancy, and others. Contact randy_gazda @fws.gov

Blackfoot Watershed II. Congratulations to principal authors, Greg Neudecker, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Al Duval, The Blackfoot Challenge and others. For more information contact greg_neudecker@fws.gov.

NAWCA Proposal Submitted for Northwest Montana titled Glaciated Valleys of Northwest Montana II. Contact Gael Bissell gbissell@mt.gov for more information.

PLANNING TOOLS TO PROTECT WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN AREAS

Montana Planners Conference

The Montana Association of Planners Conference Sept 22-24, 2008 in Big Fork. Sessions on "Planning Tools for Wetland and Riparian Areas", "A Planner's Guide to Using Fish, Wildlife, Plant and Habitat Information", Floodplain Management, Stormwater Management, and many other topics on planning for growth. Please consider taking this opportunity to learn about local planning tools for wetland and riparian protection and encourage your local planning staff to attend.
<http://www.montanaplanners.org/>

The Montana Department of Commerce Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP)

http://comdev.mt.gov/CDD_ctap.asp provides land use planning information and technical support to local governments and their planning boards and zoning commissions, private sector developers, engineers, and consultants. A current CTAP project is to update the Model Subdivision Regulations, which serve as a valuable guide for cities and counties across Montana. Concurrently, MT FW&P is engaging a working group of land use planners, fish and wildlife biologists, and state agency attorneys to compile a set of recommended subdivision development standards pertaining to fish and wildlife resource protection and resource management to recommend for integration into the Model Subdivision Regulations. Look for a draft of these new tools next spring for public review and comment.

The Center for Watershed Protection - outlines the key elements of an effective ordinance to protect wetlands from the indirect impacts of land development and provides adaptable model ordinance language. http://www.cwp.org/Resource_Library/Model_Ordinances/index.htm

Montana's Strategic Plan for Wetlands and Riparian Areas - background information on the importance of wetlands, their status, and action plan for protection and restoration. See Local Government Strategic Direction <http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/Wetlands/StrategicPlan08-12.pdf>

The Governor's Task Force for Riparian Protection <http://water.montana.edu/setback/>

The Montana Audubon - science of wetland and riparian buffers and local Montana planning ordinances, and buffer recommendations. <http://mtaudubon.org/issues/wetlands/planning.html>

WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS/CONFERENCES

Living by Water Workshop and Tour

Do you live near a river, stream or lake? Are you planning to build a home near the water? Are your river banks eroding or bare of vegetation? Then don't miss this free workshop. September 27, 2008, Bigfork. [Details here.](#)

AWRA Conference - Water Sustainability: Challenges for Montana. Oct 2-3, 2008. Big Sky, Montana <http://www.awra.org/state/montana/events/conference.htm>

Wetland Delineation - COE Regional Supplements Manual Training

In cooperation with the Montana Department of Transportation, the Wetland Training Institute, Inc. is offering a 3-day class on the new, Corps of Engineers Regional Supplements to the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual in Helena, October 15-17, 2008. Course is designed for wetland delineators working in Montana who are already trained in use of the 1987 Manual and want specifics on how to use the new [Regional Supplements](#) and how their fieldwork will be affected.

Channel Migration Zone Delineation Workshop - Interpreting Fluvial Landscapes Understanding Integration between Fluvial Geomorphology, Hydrology, Geology, Sedimentology and Hydraulics. Presented by The Northwest Environmental Training Center. October 21-23, 2008. Chico Hot Springs Resort. The [course](#) is intended for professional geo-scientists with a background in fluvial processes and also appropriate for personnel involved with reviewing CMZ delineations and desiring a better understanding of fluvial systems.

RESOURCES

Revised Landowners Guide to Montana Wetlands – Statewide and Eastern Editions

Montana Watercourse working with Wetland Council workgroup recently published revised guides. <http://www.mtwatercourse.org/Publications/Publications.htm> or 994-6671 for printed copies. State guide provides wetlands information to help landowners make informed decisions about managing, protecting and restoring wetlands.

Landowners' Guide to Eastern Montana Wetlands and Grasslands encourages landowners in eastern Montana to manage for conservation of wetlands and grasslands and offers assistance from agencies and organizations to help achieve management goals.

Updated Montana Wetland Clearinghouse Website

DEQ is revising the Wetland Clearinghouse <http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/Wetlands/Index.asp> you can find the Wetland Strategic Framework, how to sign up for the listserv, grant information, and more. It's still work in progress so let us know what information would be useful lsaul@mt.gov.

Wetland News

Association of State Wetland Managers features monthly National, Legislative, State, and other wetland news. <http://www.aswm.org/wbn/current.htm>. Article linking mapping, floodplains, rivers, wetlands http://www.aswm.org/member/august_2008/wetland_mapping_08_08.pdf

Wildlife Friendly Fences

MT FW&P has recently published a "Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences." Solutions to help make fences less injurious to wildlife and tips on making fences more visible to reduce bird collisions. <http://fwp.mt.gov/content/getItem.aspx?id=34461> or 444-4041 for a printed copy.